

Amendments to the Drawings:

The drawing sheets attached in connection with the above-identified application containing Figures 1, 2a, 2b, 3a, and 3b are being presented as sheets to be substituted for the previously submitted drawing sheets. Figures 1, 2a, and 3b have been amended. Appended to this amendment are annotated copies of the previous drawing sheets which have been marked to show the changes presented in the replacement sheets:

The specific changes which have been made to Figure 1 include the move of the reference number "9" and its corresponding leader line so as to indicate the arrows indicating the flow in the spatial region around and/or between the tubes 2.

The specific changes which have been made to Figure 2a include the addition of reference numeral "121" and its corresponding leader line and the deletion of the "X" beside the label "Fig. 2a."

The specific changes which have been made to Figure 3b include the deletion of the reference numeral "180" and its corresponding leader line.

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow. After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 23-42 are now pending in this application.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given to the claims.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to for various minor informalities. The figures and the written description have been amended to address these informalities. For at least this reason, favorable reconsideration of the objection is respectfully requested.

Prior art rejections and objections

Claims 3 and 19 are objected to for minor informalities. Claims 1-22 are rejected over the prior art. Claims 1-22 have been canceled, which renders the rejections and objections of these claims moot. For at least this reason, favorable reconsideration of the rejections and objections are respectfully requested.

Allowability of claims 23-42

Claim 23 recites a heat exchanger comprising first and second terminating elements, at least one tube, a first tube part, a second tube part, and at least one sealing element, “wherein one of the first and second tube parts comprises two continuous ring-like elements protruding radially towards the other of the first and second tube parts.” U.S. Patent 5,048,596 (“Lu”), U.S. Patent 4,972,902 (Ninomiya”), U.S. Patent 5,195,581 (“Puntambekar”), or any combination thereof does not teach or suggest this combination of features. For example, Lu teaches a rim 82 on the tank 10 and islands 94 on the cap 50. The islands are not continuous ring-like elements, and the rim 82 and the islands 94 are on different parts. Accordingly, Lu does not teach or suggest all the features of claim 23. Ninomiya and Puntambekar do not cure these deficiencies because neither teaches ring-like elements on the same part. Thus, claim 23 is allowable over the prior art.

Claims 24-42 depend from and contain all the features of claim 23, and are allowable for the same reasons as claim 23, without regard to the further patentable features contained therein.

For at least these reasons, allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date November 19, 2007

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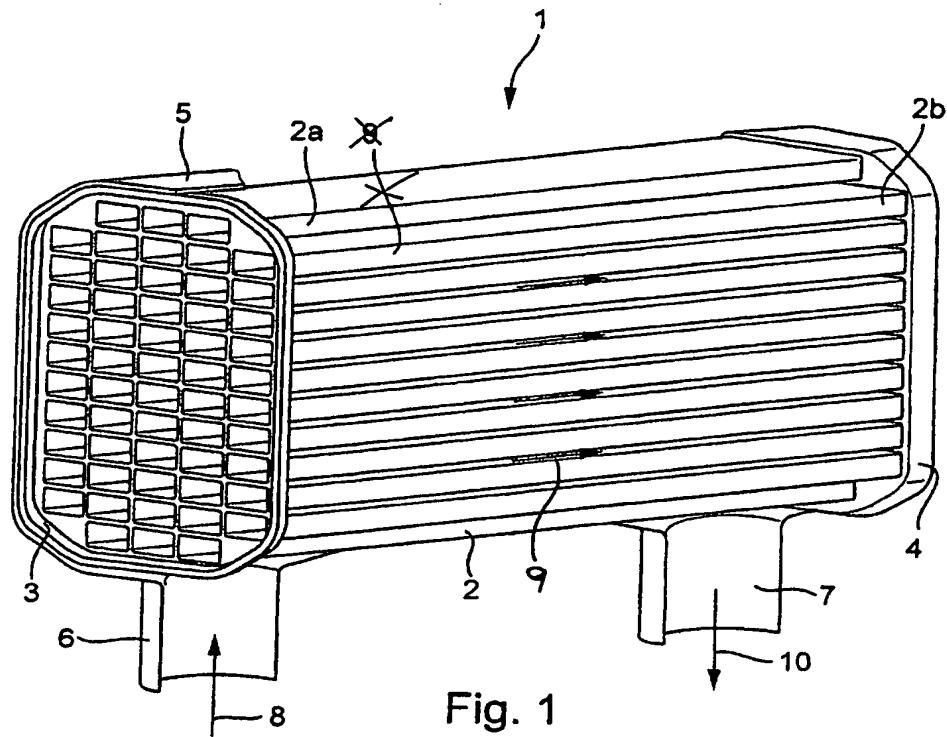


Fig. 1

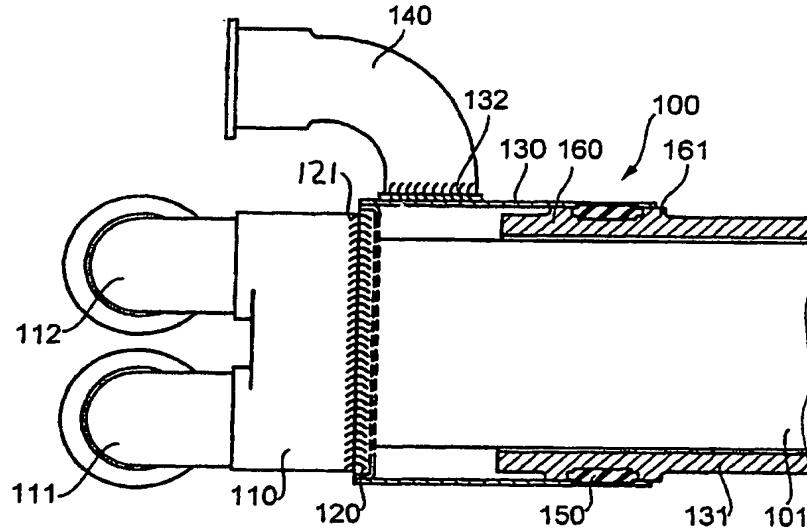


Fig. 2a ~~(X)~~

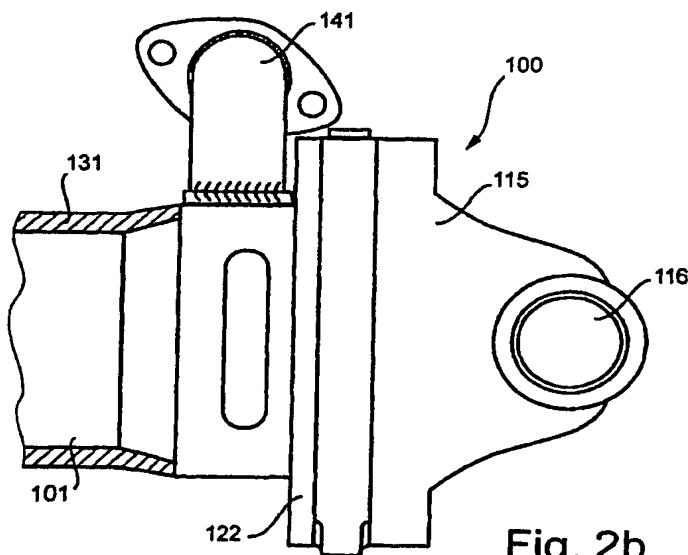


Fig. 2b

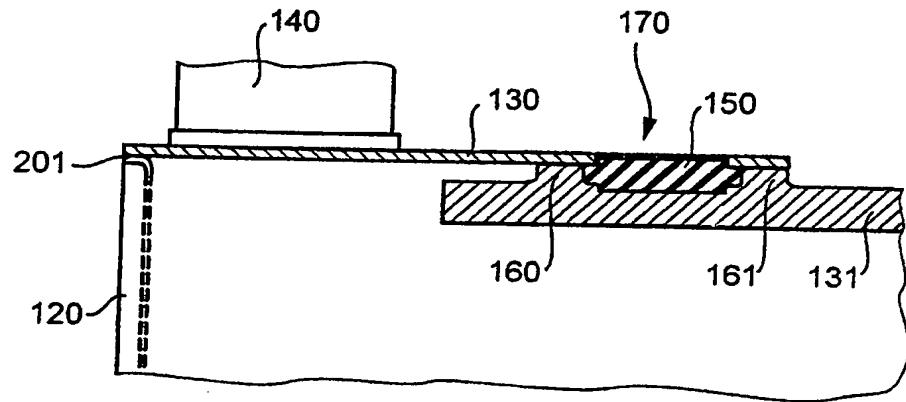


Fig. 3a

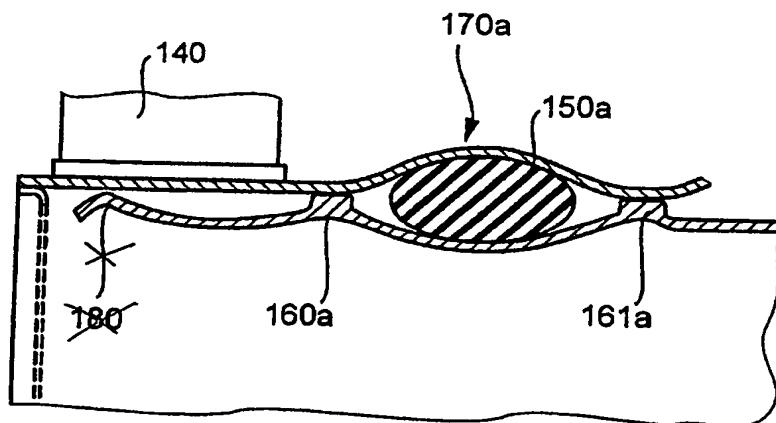


Fig. 3b